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NASHVILLE – Tennessee wrapped up 2000 with record-setting lows in unemployment, Commissioner Michael E. Magill, Department of Labor & Workforce Development, today announced.

The annual average labor force was 2,798,400 while employment reached 2,688,200 and the number of unemployed dropped to 110,200. The state's unemployment rate dropped to 3.9 percent, the lowest annual jobless rate since 1973, when it was also 3.9 percent.

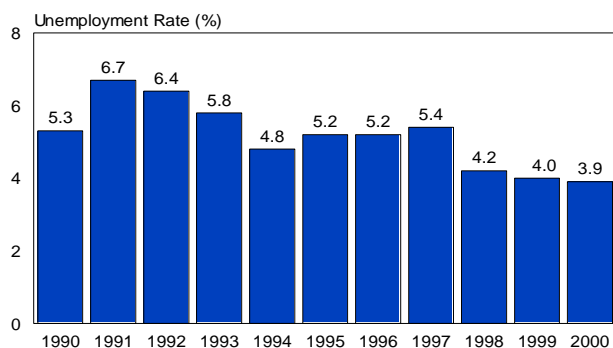
"The year 2000 was good for Tennessee's employment picture, with record-setting lows in both unemployment and the number of unemployed," Commissioner Magill said.

Tennessee's annual unemployment rate of 3.9 percent remains below the national average of 4.0 percent. In 1999, Tennessee had a jobless rate of 4.0 percent, and the national average was 4.2 percent. Tennessee has been below the national rate for the last three years.

"Tennessee has been at full employment for the last four years with a very tight labor force during 2000," Magill explained. "The jobs data from the business survey show the addition of 52,100 jobs for a growth rate of 1.9 percent—stable growth that is slightly lower than the previous three years because of a shortage of skilled workers."

Tennessee's industrial composition continues to mirror national trends with declining emphasis on manufacturing and increases in trades and services. Manufacturing now accounts for less than one of every five nonagricultural jobs in the state. Almost 27 percent of the jobs are in services industries, such as business or health services. Trade and services combined account for half of the state's nonfarm jobs. Government, which is comprised of federal, state, and local government including local education, is the fourth largest major industry.

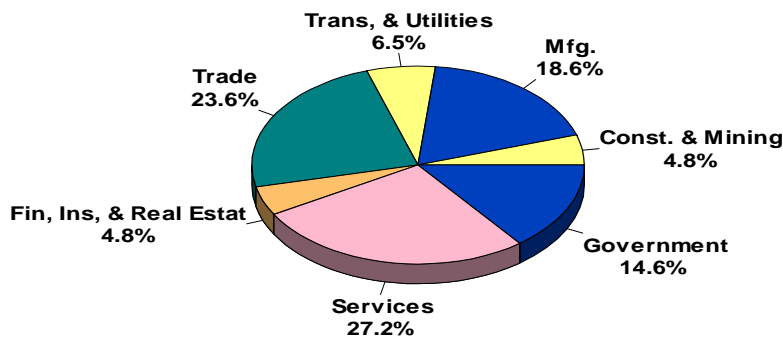
Annual Average Unemployment Rates
Tennessee, 1990 - 2000



All major industries, with the exception of manufacturing & finance/insurance/real estate, recorded job growth over the year. Services added 22,800 jobs with 11,000 of these jobs in business services. Transportation, communications, and public utilities added 5,400 jobs due primarily to an increase of 4,300 jobs in transportation.

Trade added 14,100 jobs with 12,100 of the increase in retail trade stores. Government increased statewide by 9,100 with local government adding 5,500 jobs.

Tennessee 2000 Industrial Composition



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NOTE: Information will be available on the Internet; enter "<http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd>". Sound may be obtained from the Governor's NewsLine at 1-800-342-1483 or Nashville area 741-4877.

NOTE: Tennessee's employment and unemployment statistics are based on two major surveys. The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a survey by place of residence providing estimates on the number of people in the labor force, total employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate. Beginning in January 1992, the CPS data are seasonally adjusted for all states as directed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The business survey collects data by place of work and creates information about jobs in various industries. The business survey data are non-seasonally adjusted at this time.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities

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